

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing:

1. – 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Withdrawn) A method for processing a record comprising:

determining if the record closes a unit of work;

responsive to the determination that the record closes the unit of work, applying a composition rule to the unit of work; and

wherein the composition rule aggregates and normalizes a plurality of records associated with the unit of work.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

receiving a packet containing the plurality of records; and

obtaining the first record in the packet.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

determining whether the record opens the unit of work; and

responsive to the determination that the record opens the unit of work, creating a unit of work entry in a unit of work table and labeling a unit of work entry state as open.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

determining whether the record references the unit of work with the unit of work state that is closed or close pending; and

responsive to the determination that the record does not reference the unit of work with the unit of work state that is closed or close pending, saving the record in a database.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 further comprising: responsive to the determination that the record closes the unit of work, changing the unit of work entry to close pending.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

determining whether there is another record in the packet; and

responsive to a determination that there is another record in the packet, repeating the steps in claim 16.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the composition rule comprises steps comprising:

obtaining a record selection rule associated with the composition rule;

applying the record selection rule to the database to obtain the plurality of records;

and

aggregating a plurality of measurement values for the records, normalizing a plurality of fields in the records, and normalizing a plurality of attributes in the records to produce a metric.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 further comprising: changing the unit of work state to closed.
24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the record comprises: a fixed number of required fields and a variable number of attributes.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the required fields comprise: a resource identification, a user identification, a measurement value, a unit of work identification, and a close unit of work flag.
26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein each attribute comprises a name and a value; wherein the name describes a type of attribute; and wherein the value is a measurement of the attribute.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 wherein the required fields are stored in a record table in the database; wherein the attributes are stored in an attribute table in the data; and wherein a key correlates the required fields to the attributes.
28. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a metric comprising:
- obtaining a record selection rule associated with a composition rule;
 - applying the record selection rule to a database to obtain a plurality of records; and
 - aggregating a plurality of measurement values for the records.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 further comprising: normalizing a plurality of fields in the records.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 further comprising: normalizing a plurality of attributes in the records.
31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 further comprising: changing a unit of work state to closed.
32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein step of aggregating comprises: summing the measurement values of the records.
33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein step of normalizing comprises: selecting one field from the plurality of fields in the record to represent the plurality of fields.
34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein step of normalizing comprises: selecting an attribute from the plurality of attributes in the record to represent the plurality of attributes.
35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein the record comprises: a fixed number of required fields and a variable number of attributes.
36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the required fields comprise: a resource identification, a user identification, a measurement value, a unit of work identification, and a close unit of work flag.
37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein each attribute comprises a name and a value; wherein the name describes a type of attribute; and wherein the value is a measurement of the attribute.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the required fields are stored in a record table in the database; wherein the attributes are stored in an attribute table in the data; and wherein a key correlates the required fields to the attributes.

39. – 53. (Cancelled).

54. (Withdrawn) A program product operable on a computer comprising:

- a computer-usable medium;
- wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions for a computer to perform steps comprising:
 - instructions for determining if the record closes a unit of work;
 - responsive to the determination that the record closes the unit of work,
 - instructions for applying a composition rule to the unit of work; and
 - wherein the composition rule aggregates and normalizes a plurality of records associated with the unit of work.

55. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 54 further comprising:

- instructions for receiving a packet containing the plurality of records; and
- instructions for obtaining the first record in the packet.

56. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 54 further comprising:

- instructions for determining whether the record opens the unit of work; and

responsive to the determination that the record opens the unit of work, instructions for creating a unit of work entry in a unit of work table and labeling a unit of work entry state as open.

57. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 54 further comprising:

instructions for determining whether the record references the unit of work with the unit of work state that is closed or close pending; and

responsive to the determination that the record does not reference the unit of work with the unit of work state that is closed or close pending, instructions for saving the record in a database.

58. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 54 further comprising: responsive to the determination that the record closes the unit of work, instructions for changing the unit of work entry to close pending.

59. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 54 further comprising:

instructions for determining whether there is another record in the packet; and

responsive to a determination that there is another record in the packet, instructions for repeating the steps in claim 54.

60. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 54 wherein the composition rule comprises steps comprising:

instructions for obtaining a record selection rule associated with the composition rule;

instructions for applying the record selection rule to the database to obtain the plurality of records; and

instructions for aggregating a plurality of measurement values for the records, instructions for normalizing a plurality of fields in the records, and instructions for normalizing a plurality of attributes in the records to produce a metric.

61. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 60 further comprising: instructions for changing the unit of work state to closed.
62. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 61 wherein the record comprises: a fixed number of required fields and a variable number of attributes.
63. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 62 wherein the required fields comprise: a resource identification, a user identification, a measurement value, a unit of work identification, and a close unit of work flag.
64. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 62 wherein each attribute comprises a name and a value; wherein the name describes a type of attribute; and wherein the value is a measurement of the attribute.
65. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 62 wherein the required fields are stored in a record table in the database; wherein the attributes are stored in an attribute table in the data; and wherein a key correlates the required fields to the attributes.
66. (Withdrawn) A program product operable on a computer comprising:

a computer-usable medium;

wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions for a computer to perform steps comprising:

instructions for obtaining a record selection rule associated with a composition rule;

instructions for applying the record selection rule to a database to obtain a plurality of records; and

instructions for aggregating a plurality of measurement values for the records.

67. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 66 further comprising: instructions for normalizing a plurality of fields in the records.

68. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 66 further comprising: instructions for normalizing a plurality of attributes in the records.

69. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 66 further comprising: instructions for changing a unit of work state to closed.

70. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 66 wherein step of aggregating comprises: instructions for summing the measurement values of the records.

71. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 67 wherein step of normalizing comprises: instructions for selecting one field from the plurality of fields in the record to represent the plurality of fields.

72. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 68 wherein step of normalizing comprises: instructions for selecting an attribute from the plurality of attributes in the record to represent the plurality of attributes.

73. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 66 wherein the record comprises: a fixed number of required fields and a variable number of attributes.
74. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 73 wherein the required fields comprise: a resource identification, a user identification, a measurement value, a unit of work identification, and a close unit of work flag.
75. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 74 wherein each attribute comprises a name and a value; wherein the name describes a type of attribute; and wherein the value is a measurement of the attribute.
76. (Withdrawn) The program product of claim 74 wherein the required fields are stored in a record table in the database; wherein the attributes are stored in an attribute table in the data; and wherein a key correlates the required fields to the attributes.
77. (New) A computer implemented method for processing a plurality of records into a metric to measure a user's consumption of a resource of an on-demand service, the computer implemented method comprising:
- responsive to a user consuming the resource of the on-demand service, the on-demand service comprising a sensor, a data gathering agent, and a metering data consumer, using the sensor, recording usage data relating to the to user's consumption of the resource;
- using the data gathering agent, receiving the usage data from the sensor and storing the usage data as a plurality of user-specific metering records, each of the plurality of user-specific

metering records comprising a resource identification, a user identification, a resource measurement value, and a unit of work identification;

using the data gathering agent, transmitting a packet of usage data to a metering module, the packet comprising the plurality of user-specific metering records, the metering module comprising a web services interface and a processing engine;

using the web services interface, receiving the packet and transmitting the packet to the processing engine;

using the processing engine storing the plurality of user-specific metering records in a database;

responsive to a determination that a first record of the plurality of user-specific metering records contains an instruction to close a unit of work and using the processing engine, applying a composition rule to the first record to create a metric corresponding to the first record;

using the processing engine, storing the metric in the database, wherein the metric is stored in the database in the same format as the plurality of user-specific metering records; and

transferring the metric to the metering data consumer;

wherein the on-demand service is remote from the metering module, communicates with the metering module via the web services interface, and the plurality of records are processed into the metric to measure the user's consumption of the resource of the on-demand service.